

Dry Forest Science Review: What have we learned from implementing the dry forest strategy?

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CURRENT CONDITIONS

- Nearly a century of logging practices, changes in
- Some vegetation more dramatic than experienced in the past logging lead to
- Experienced
- rs.



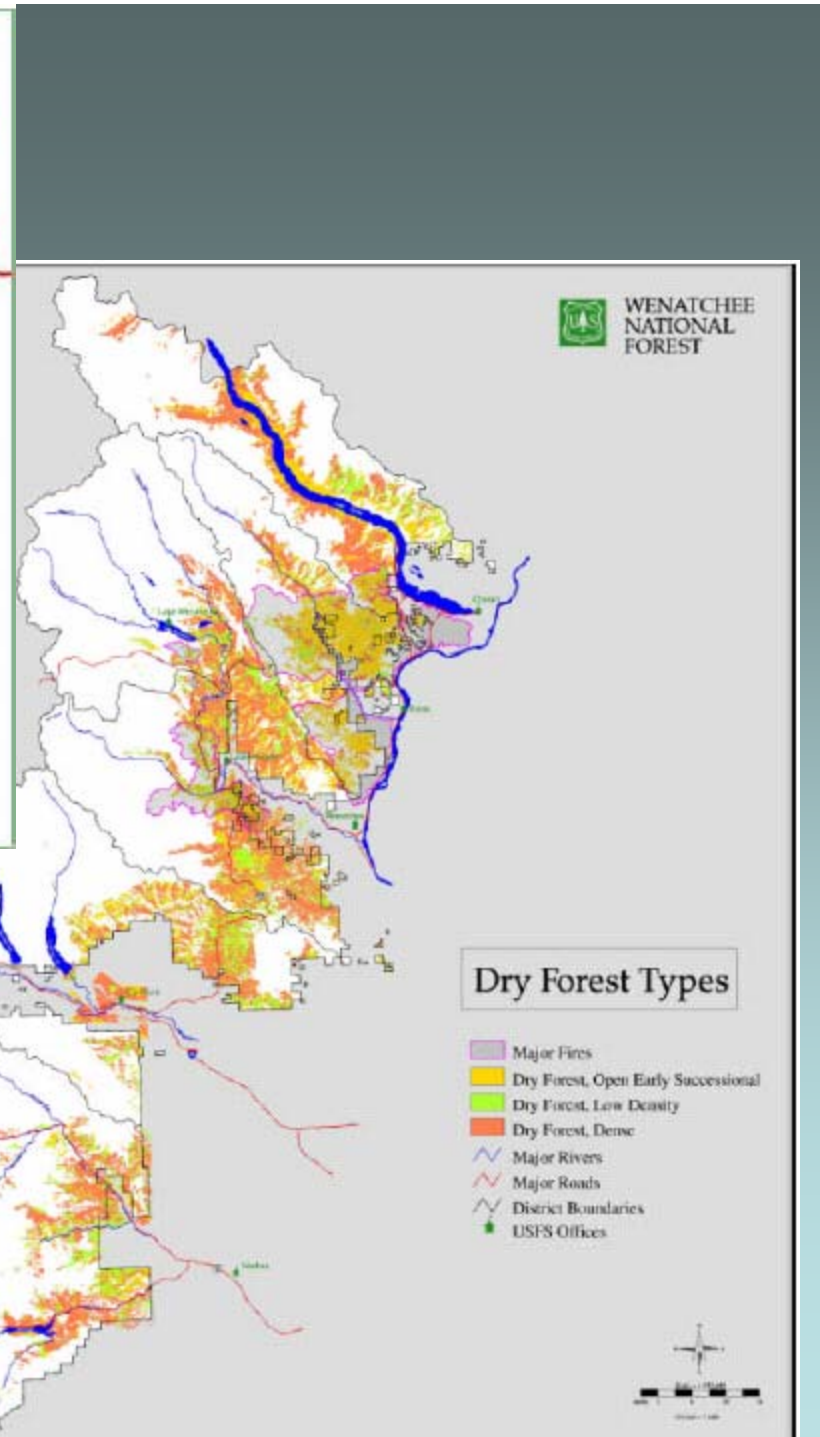
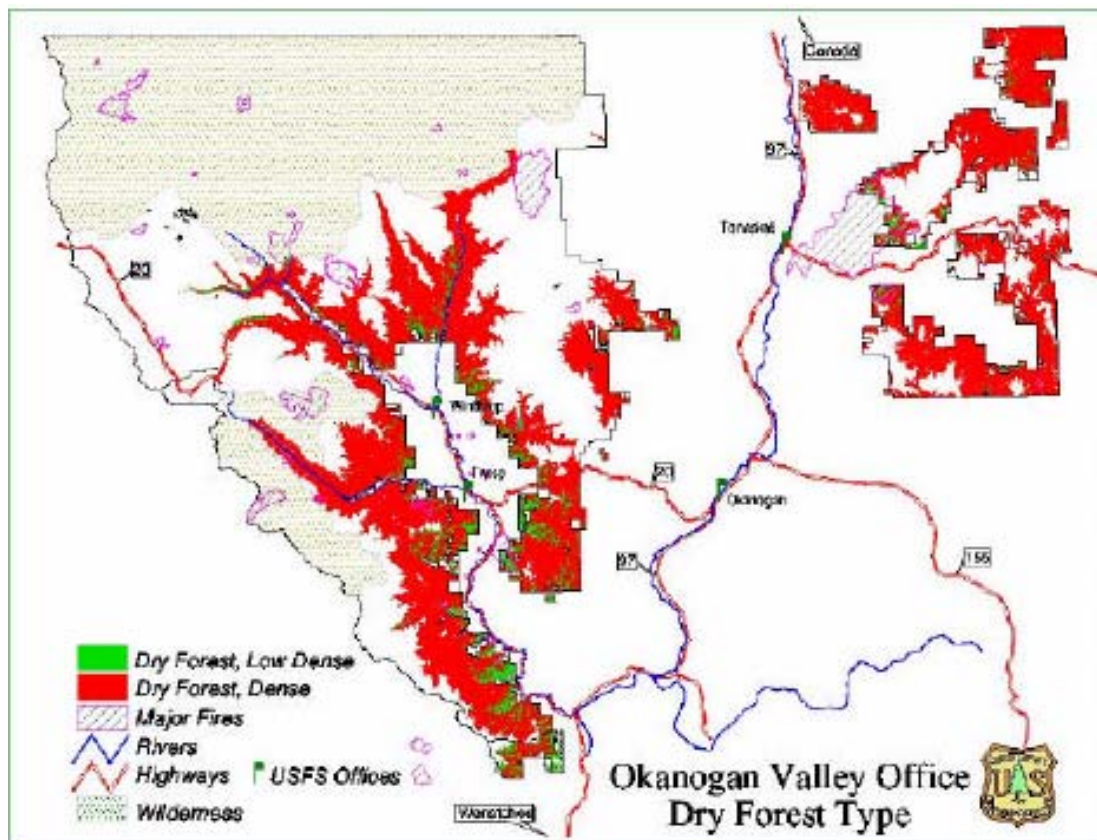




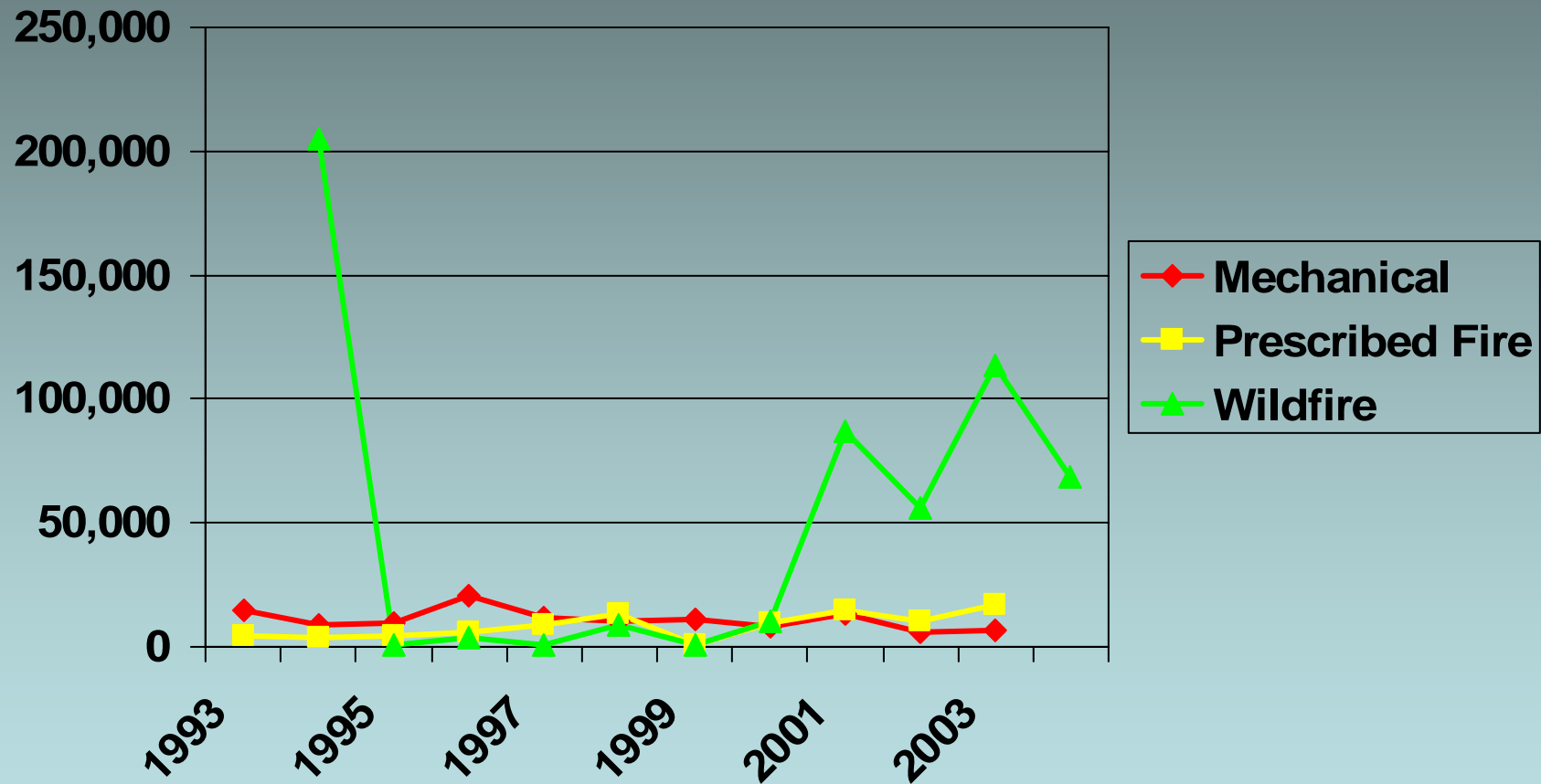


Dry Forest Strategy

- **Developed on Wenatchee National Forest after 1994 wildfire season.**
- **Updated to include Okanogan National Forest in 1999.**
- **Recognized the largest changes due to fire exclusion and past management are in dry forests.**
- **Management should be focused on restoration treatments (thinning and burning) at landscape scales**
 - **Particularly around communities**



Vegetation Treatments



Forest Health Assessment

Table C-1. Acres of dry and mesic forest type

Forest Type	Acres
Dry dense	664,734
Dry not-dense	407,682
Total dry	1,072,416
Mesic dense	327,883
Mesic not-dense	108,067
Total mesic	435,950

Table C-2. Acres of dry and mesic forest type circa 1934


Forest Type	Acres
Dry dense	66,473
Dry not-dense	1,005,943
Total dry	1,072,416
Mesic dense	174,380
Mesic not-dense	261,570
Total mesic	435,950

- **Estimated a loss of about 30,000 acres/year of open forest.**
- **Over 20 year period, would need to treat with thinning and burning ca. 70,000 acres a year.**
- **About 8-10 times current rate of treatment.**

Information Needs

- **Lack of large scale treatments means:**
 - **Prioritize where we spend a limit budget and use a limited workforce**
 - **Treatments need be effective**
 - **Treatments need to be strategically placed**
 - **Critical that we have creditable research and monitoring to support proposed treatments**
 - **Practice Adaptive Management**

Workshop Section Overview

		Treatment Matrix	
		Prescribed Fire	
Cutting	NO		
	Yes		

Dry Forest Workshop I

- **Several science issues raised**
 - Spring vs. fall burning needs to be compared in terms of ecological effects, logistics, fire risk, and tradeoffs of these issues. (*All*)
 - Preventing or minimizing the establishment and spread of invasive species was a strong research need. (*Peterson*)
 - Landscape analysis needs to show managers what, where, when, and how to treat landscapes to meet DFCs, and to determine the risks of no action. (*Agee, Hessburg, Ager (tomorrow)*)

Science Issues Cont.

- Treatments that maintain soil integrity and hydrologic (aquatic) function over short and long terms are critical. (*Zabowski and Dare*)
- Managers need to have local information on fuels and variability from which to base objectives and design treatments. (*Agee*)
- Effects of vegetation and burning on the condition/trends in overstory and understory vegetation, snags, and coarse woody debris. (*Harrod, Peterson, and Hessburg*)
- Impacts on wildlife at stand and landscape scales needs to be determined, especially for species associated with late-successional forest, migratory birds, and survey and manage species. (*Gaines and Lehmkuhl*)

Audience Participation

- **Lots of information to be provided, so ask questions**
- **Consider how the information can be used in a management context**
- **What information do we still have given what you learn?**
- **Record your ideas and questions for the discussion session tomorrow afternoon.**